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DOCUMENTS

Report to President Lauds Dual Military Effort in RVN

The President has been briefed that American military forces in Vietnam are outstanding not only in the shooting war but also in the massive support they bring to the civil reconstruction effort.

"It could not succeed without them," Special Presidential Assistant Robert W. Komer, just back from Vietnam, told Mr. Johnson.

The Chief Executive also was told the Viet Cong defection rate is doubling—10,000 defectors alone during the first half of 1966 against 11,000 last year.

Mr. Komer also said congestion is being relieved on the Saigon docks, noting we "are already handling roughly double the tonnage handled at the same time last year."

Other highlights of the Komer report:

- Prime Minister Ky's June 18th devaluation should help to contain inflation.
- Vietnam was reassured we will continue to back them up, Congress willing, "with a high level of economic aid needed to offset the impact of war."
- Public health and medical assistance programs generally go unrecognized. For example, some 1.3 million inoculations for cholera, smallpox, plague and other diseases were given in 1965 alone.
- Our massive education assistance effort is making an impact on the countryside, with more than 4000 hamlet classrooms already built.

Defense Plan Prevents Delays To Military Traffic in Air Strike

Department of Defense has taken steps to insure that the machinist strike against five domestic airlines will not affect movement of men and mail to and from overseas.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance took action the day after the walkout began, invoking the "Defense Emergency Transportation Plan" to continue and expand chartered flights to meet essential requirements. Both the unions and the carriers assured DOD that essential traffic will be moved.

Mr. Vance said he assessed the strike's impact "at the President's direction." He mentioned the matter of mail just after military requirements, saying "mail to and from our men in Vietnam will be moved expeditiously."

CONSERVATION WINNERS—The U.S. Air Force Academy received a special award for operation of a fish and wildlife conservation program during 1965. Displaying the special citation issued by the Gen. Thomas D. White Fish and Wildlife Conservation Award committee are (left to right): Col. Ralph C. Embrey, Chief of Staff; Col. Carl O. Brasier, DCS/Engineering, and Lt. Col. J. E. Gannon, director of Inspection.

Defense Cost Reduction Tops Goal by $400 Million

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has reported to President Johnson that savings of $4.5 billion were realized by DOD during FY66—$400 million more than estimated.

In reply the President said he was particularly encouraged that the savings were made "despite the extraordinary demands of the Vietnam conflict."

Secretary McNamara noted that savings of $6.1 billion a year by FY69 and each year thereafter have again been set as DOD's long-range goal.

The secretary's fourth annual progress report covering DOD's Cost Reduction Program states that actual accomplishments in each year have far exceeded the original goals announced in July 1962. Cumulative savings over the five year period now exceed $14 billion.

The report explains that the savings in FY66 were achieved at the same time "we were building up a military force of about 350,000 men in Southeast Asia, some 10,000 miles from our shores, and providing the facilities, weapons, ammunition, equipment and supplies required to support them in combat."

Washington Memos

VIET CONG ARE deploying 122 combat battalions in South Vietnam, with another 13 battalions in support. In giving this confirmed estimate of enemy strength, U.S. officials say troop strength boils down to 90,000 to 100,000 men, about one-third of them North Vietnamese. If part-time guerrillas and VC political and technical cadres were included, total strength is estimated between 255,000 and 270,000.

TWO NEW UNITS have joined ARSTRIKE, Army component of quick-deployment U. S. Strike Command. Both units, stationed at Army Missile and Munitions Center and School, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., were activated by CONARC to support intensified combat training given high-readiness units. Units are 522d Ordnance Co. (Ammunition) and 200th Ordnance Det. (HAWK Missile). STRICOM components can be moved to global crisis areas within hours.

DOD ASKED SELECTIVE SERVICE for 31,000 men in September and increased draft calls for July by 2,000 and August by 4,000. Request raises inductee deliveries to 28,500 for July and 36,600 for August. All inductees called during the three months will be assigned to Army.

HIGH PRESSURE TEST and evaluation vessel capable of exerting pressures up to 20,000 pounds per square inch, or depth of about 8.5 miles beneath surface of the ocean, has been developed by U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office. Designed to test instruments in undersea work, vessel can accept instruments up to eight feet long. Tests have already caused re-evaluation of several underwater instruments. Pieces of scientific instrumentation, designed to operate at specific depths, failed to meet stated claims when subjected to pressure tests.

ARMY SURGEON GENERAL'S office has authorized use of anti-malaria drug, diaminodiphenylsulfonex (DDS), among U.S. troops in Vietnam to combat severe form of malaria that has resisted usual treatment. Troops will be given one 25 milligram pill daily and will continue to take pills for one month after leaving Vietnam.

RECENT FIELD TESTS in Vietnam showed that DDS, long used in treating leprosy, cut in half number of men stricken by malaria. Soldiers receiving drug who still come down with malaria should now be able to return to duty in 2-3 weeks instead of 6-8 weeks former recovery time. Chances of relapse also should be cut from 40 to 4 percent.

IN 1965 1,801 AMERICAN TROOPS contracted malaria in Vietnam, losing total of 63,035 man days from duty. Field tests of DDS were begun by Walter Reed Army Institute of Research team in December 1965, completed in May 1966.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY has installed optical test scoring and document scanning system which automatically feeds, scans and scores 2,400 cadet answer sheets hourly, more than three times speed of electrographic-principle machines used in past. New machine is also far more accurate.

ARMY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS Command has opened satellite terminal at Helemano, Hawaii, which links communication satellites launched June 16 at Cape Kennedy. Helemano terminal will relay military messages between strategic military commands. Five other STRATCOM terminals are in existence, in California, New Jersey, the Philippines, Germany and Ethiopia. Each is capable of linking ground stations up to 10,350 miles apart.

NEW CONCEPT IN communications is joint venture, involving all military departments. Satellites were developed and launched by Air Force Space Systems Division. Navy is developing shipboard terminals and Army will develop and operate all earth terminals during test phase of project.

AIR FORCE'S C-5 mammoth transport represents another instance where military development and procurement provide industry-wide benefits. Contract definition provided participating companies nucleus of organization, study and engineering for potential new family of air carrier aircraft, such as L-500, DC-10 and 747.

USCG CONTRACTED for construction of monster navigational sea buoy to replace Scotland Lightship off Sandy Hook, N.J. Buoy, to be delivered next summer, is 40 feet in diameter, will weigh 50 tons, will have 33-foot high superstructure containing 5000 candlepower light visible 10 miles, fog horn audible for two miles, and radio beacon with 15-mile range.

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS Command establishing creative Motor Vehicle Drivesafe Program at command activities. In keeping with recent emphasis on traffic safety by President and Congress, Drivesafe Program includes professional basic drivers training school and clinic. Clinic will be based on research and development, conducted at NAS, Corpus Christi, Tex.

DEVELOPMENT OF DUAL-PURPOSE Maneuvering Unit (DMU) that can be worn by space pilot or operated by remote radio and television signals has been begun by Air Force Systems Command's Research and Technology Division. DMU will combine best features of Astronaut Maneuvering Unit, which went untested during Gemini 9 flight, and lab-tested Remote Maneuvering Unit.

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 62 has been recommissioned at Gulfport, Miss., after 21 years of inactivation. Battalion is third Seabee unit to be recommissioned this year. All were reactivated to help meet Navy's stepped-up construction commitments in Southeast Asia.

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DOD Issues New Policy For Sole Surviving Sons

Policy that will permit hardship discharge of sole surviving sons from active military service has been established by the Department of Defense.

The new policy, effective immediately, applies to the armed forces except during periods of war or national emergency declared by Congress. It will be incorporated as an amendment to the present directive covering sole surviving sons, issued in 1951.

That policy provided for assignment to non-combat duty of sole surviving sons upon application of survivor or parent. When a parent applied for such assignment, the military member could waive the prerogative of such assignment

New policy provides that the military member must specifically apply for hardship discharge, if he so desires.

"Sole surviving sons," within the meaning of the policy, means the only remaining son in a family in which a father, brother or sister was killed, died, or permanently 100 percent disabled as result of military service. It does not apply in cases where there was originally only one son in the family.

Bill Seeks to Eliminate Hardships of POV Delays

Legislation has been introduced to eliminate financial hardship suffered by military overseas returnees whose privately-owned vehicles (POVs) fail to catch up with them.

Government presently pays for transportation from port to port. When vehicles are delayed personnel are faced with financial hardship in settling family and later retrieving car at own expense.

Proposed legislation would authorize payment of necessary transportation when Government is responsible for delay. Benefits would be retroactive to March 31, 1966.

Congressional testimony was given by Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Maj. Gen. Robert F. Seedlock. He said Vietnamese situation requires bringing skilled personnel from Europe to United States for early deployment to Southeast Asia.

These returnees, added to heavy summer rotation flow, have saturated transportation facilities. A peak ocean shipping backlog of more than 2,000 POVs developed at Bremerhaven, Germany on May 19, 1966.

SILVER BUFFALO—Gen. Bruce C. Clarke, USA (ret), left, congratulates Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service, on the latter's receipt of the Silver Buffalo Award, highest national level recognition by the Boy Scouts of America to adults who are performing volunteer service for youth.

Defense Dept. Study of Draft Involved Exhaustive Research

The Defense draft study presented to Congress June 30 assessed experience and attitudes of hundreds of thousands including active duty personnel and veterans.

Comprehensive basis for study was revealed to House Armed Services Committee by Assistant Defense Secretary (Manpower) Thomas D. Morris.

He said Selective Service System reviewed records of 288,000 registrants and military services got information on attitudes of 102,000 men on active duty and 46,000 Ready Reservists.

Other information came from Bureau of Census after conducting nationwide survey of veterans and non-veterans aged 16-34. This covered 35,000 households.

Savings Bonds Sales Set Postwar Records

Savings Bonds sales continued to show impressive gains over last year, with Series E Bond sales setting postwar records for May and June.

A Treasury Department report shows E Bond sales were the highest for any June since 1945, while combined sales of E and H Bonds were the highest for the month since 1945.

Officials said the increase in bond sales was noted following President Johnson's announcement in February of a new higher 4.15 percent interest rate.

AF Special Assignments Continue to Increase

An additional 2,000 selected manning spaces will possibly be required if current studies are approved, according to Air Force's Selected Assignments and Schools Branch.

More than 21,000 airmen are now assigned to 190 activities under the selective manning system.

The branch, assigned to DCS/Personnel, with headquarters at Randolph AFB, Tex., noted that, over the past five years, requirements for selective manning have increased.

Officials defined selected assignments "as manning at 100 percent of authorizations with highly trained personnel, many of whom must possess qualifications above those normally required for award of the Air Force specialty."

Activities requiring such manning include DOD, Presidential support activities, MAAG, Air Force Missions, NATO/SHAPE, Hq Air Force and Field Extensions.

Athena Booster Launch Establishes Two 'Firsts'

Air Force's Athena missile program demonstrated two more new capabilities and reaffirmed an old one when the 46th Athena booster was launched at Norton AFB, Calif.

The Athena is the slender, four-stage test missile designed to secure re-entry data applicable to full-scale missiles.

The flight was the first demonstration of the missile's ability to carry payloads weighing in excess of 100 pounds to ICBM re-entry velocities. Athena was designed to carry only 50 pounds to these high velocities.

It was also the first test of a new payload recovery system installed at White Sands Missile Range.

Athena also proved she could fly in high winds. Under extreme weather conditions, all stages landed safely in the designated impact area.

3000th COMBAT SORTIE—Capt. Tom L. Elser, USMC, set a record for Marine All Weather Squadron 235 when he flew the squadron's 3000th combat sortie just 132 days after the squadron arrived in Vietnam. The squadron also flew 41 sorties within 24 hours to set a Marine Air Group 11 record.

Army Medical Group Arrives in Vietnam

The 55th Medical Group has been moved from Fort Bragg, N. C., to RVN to provide command and control of the 1st Logistical Command's complex of medical activities.

Headquartered at the Qui Nhon airfield, it is exercising administrative control over the Army's 85th and 67th Evacuation Hospitals, the 70th Medical Battalion and 2nd Surgical Hospital.

Prior to going to Vietnam, the 55th served in the Dominican Republic during the crisis there.

Marine Corps Opens First Permanent Airfield in RVN

The Marine Corps' first permanent airfield facility in RVN has been officially opened at Da Nang by Maj. Gen. Louis B. Robertshaw, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

An 80,000 square yard concrete parking apron for the 1st MAW supersonic jet aircraft and maintenance shops now covers a former wasteland.

DOD Issues Instructions On RVN Campaign Medal

DOD has issued instructions to services concerning the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal awarded by RVN to U. S. service personnel.

Eligibility date is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1960, with determination left to U. S. authorities for making awards to their own personnel. At least six months' service after the eligibility date is required.

Each service will publish its own regulations governing procedures for administrative processing, awarding and wearing of the medal.

First official award to U. S. service personnel was made by RVN on March 24, 1966. This came after authorization allowing U. S. forces to accept and wear certain decorations RVN confers on its own forces.

Date Set for SAC Combat Contest

The 1966 Strategic Air Command combat competition will be held October 2-8, at Fairchild AFB, Wash. Gen. John D. Ryan, SAC Commander in Chief, said approximately 1600 aircrew members and support personnel will participate.

Crews representing all SAC B-52 Strato Fortress and B-58 Hustler Wings will compete in what is described as a "World Series of Bombing."

Three Royal Air Force aircrews also are expected to compete, flying 4 Jet Delta-Wing Vulcan Bombers. This will mark the third time RAF crews have participated in the major USAF bombing event.

Army Selects 48 New Junior ROTC Schools

Forty-eight high schools have been selected for ROTC units in FY 67 under the Army's expanded Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. The schools were selected from those applying for the program, and all will be offering Army military training for the first time.

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